

17-22 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,923,734 to Taskett (hereinafter "Taskett"). In response, Applicants submit that neither Hanson, Longo, nor Taskett teach, suggest, or make obvious the features set forth in Applicants' invention. More specifically, neither Hanson, Longo, nor Taskett make any reference to recording a message in relation to a prepaid calling or a stored value card as set forth in independent claims 1, 9, 14, 17, and 25. For example, Longo teaches that a message is stored within an identity tag and, thus, can only be retrieved by someone in possession of the identity tag; in contrast, Applicants' invention teaches that the message can be stored and retrieved over a telephone network. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1, 9, 14, 17 and 25 as set forth in paragraphs two, three, and four of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

Claims 2-8 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 1 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-8 as set forth in paragraph two of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

Claims 10-13 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 9 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 10-13 as set forth in paragraph two of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

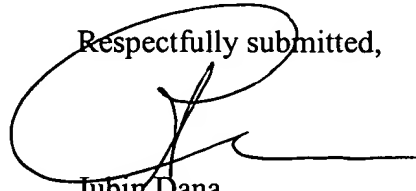
Claims 15 and 16 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 14 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 15 and 16 as set forth in paragraph two of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

Claims 18-24 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 17 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 18-24 as set forth in paragraphs two and four of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

Claims 26 and 27 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 25 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 26 and 27 as set forth in paragraphs two and four of the Office Action and full allowance of same.

While it is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Jubin Dana  
Reg. No. 41,400

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MCIWorldCom, Inc.  
1133 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (972) 729-7379  
Fax: (972) 729-7255